Case 1:07-cv-10675-LBS

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O7 Page 1 of 12

DAVIDSON & COHEN, P.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

265 SUNRISE HIGHWAY

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NEW YORK 11570

(516) 763-6700 (516) 763-0567 FACSIMILE

BRUGE E. GOHEN
KEITH S. DAVIDSON
JANST L.K. SMITELLI

DATE: Janet Swall	DOWN SOUP
TO:	
FAX NO.:	
FROM:	
RE:	- Augustas
SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:	

IMPORTANT NOTICE

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS FACSIMILE MESSAGE IS ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGED AND/OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION INTENDED ONLY FOR THE USE OF THE INDIVIDUAL OR ENTITY NAMED ABOVE. IF THE READER OF THIS MESSAGE IS NOT THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, OR THE EMPLOYEE OR AGENT RESPONSIBLE TO DELIVER IT TO THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT ANY DISSEMINATION, DISTRIBUTION OR COPYING OF THIS COMMUNICATION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS COMMUNICATION IN ERROR, PLEASE IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY US BY TELEPHONE, AND RETURN THE ORIGINAL MESSAGE TO US AT THE ADDRESS ABOVE VIA THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE. THANK YOU.

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Page 2 of 12

UNITED STATES DISTRICT CO SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEV		Y
SHEILA GREENBERG and BUD		••
-against- HOME DEPOT U.S.A., INC.	Plaintiffs,	MOTION REMANDING THE ACTION TO STATE COURT Index No. 10675-07
	Defendant.	
		v

The Plaintiffs, SHEILA GREENBERG and BUDDIE GREENBERG by their attorneys, DAVIDSON & COHEN, P.C. hereby moves this Court for an Order remanding the above entitled action to the Supreme Bronx State Court from whence the action was removed, on the grounds that notice of removal was untimely, so that all further proceedings of the matter including the trial may be had in this Court of original jurisdiction.

Dated: Rockville Centre, New York December 12, 2007

Yours, etc.

Vanet L.H. Smitelli, Esq.

がAVIDSON & COHEN, P.C.

Attorneys for Plaintiff 265 Sunrise Highway

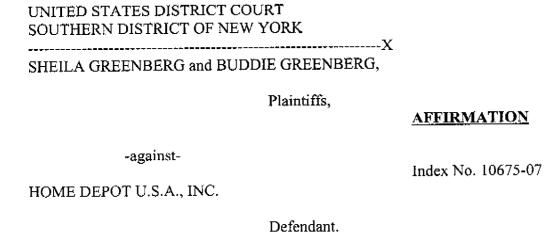
Rockville Centre, New York 11570

护1335

(516) 763-6700

TO: D'Amato & Lynch, LLP
Attorneys for Defendant
70 Pine Street

New York, New York 10270-0110



JANET L. HELLER SMITELLI, an attorney duly admitted to practice law before the Courts of the State of New York and before the Southern District of New York, hereby affirms the following under penalties of perjury:

I am associated with the law firm of Davidson & Cohen, P.C., attorneys for the plaintiff in the above entitled action and, as such, am familiar with this matter as evidenced by the file maintained by our office. This action arises out of a slip and fall accident at defendant's store which occurred on August 3, 2006. As a result, a Summons and Complaint dated Sept. 17, 2007, was served upon the defendant on Oct. 2, 2007, by service upon the Secretary of State. Annexed hereto as Exhibit "A" and "B" respectively, is a copy of the Summons & Complaint and affidavit of service. The index number was purchased in this matter on Sept. 24, 2007.

Defendant attorneys requested an extension of time within which to answer on Oct. 12, 2007 and issue was joined by service of an Answer by the defendant on Nov. 12, 2007. See copy of defendant's extension letter, answer and discovery demands annexed hereto as Exhibit "C", "D" and Case 1:07-cv-10675-LBS Document 3 Filed 12/19/2007 Page 4 of 12

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"E" respectively.

Over two weeks thereafter, defendant attorney filed and served a Notice of Removal dated November 29, 2007. See copy of said Removal papers annexed hereto as Exhibit "F". This Notice of Removal was clearly untimely and beyond the thirty day limitation period as outlined in 28 U.S.C.A. Section 1446.

In the case of <u>Bertrand v. Vingan</u> 899 F.Supp. 1198 (S.D.N.Y. 1995), a defendant seeking removal must strictly comply with all statutory requirements, and where there is a doubt as to whether requirements have been satisfied, the case should be remanded. See also generally <u>Citibank</u> N.A. v. McGuirl 888 F.Supp 39 (S.D.N.Y. 1995).

Additionally, the party seeking to sustain removal not the party seeking remand bears the burden of demonstrating that the removal was proper see <u>Wilds v. United Parcel Service Incorporated</u> 262 F.Supp.2d 163 (S.D.N.Y. 2003) and <u>Cassara v. Ralston</u> 832 F.Supp 752 (S.D.N.Y. 1993).

Defendants have also failed to prove a complete diversity in this matter in that the defendant Home Depot derives substantial revenue from New York State. Defendant, Home Depot is the world's largest home improvement retailer operating more than 1500 stores across North America. According to their official website, their revenue in 2006 was \$90.837 billion. It is axiomatic therefore that this huge corporation has many connections with New York State and in fact has been a defendant in many New York actions according to "Elaw" and "Lexis" web sites.

The Courts generally strictly construe the removal statutes in favor of remand and against removal. See generally, <u>Bosky v. Kroger Tex L.P.</u> 288 F. 3rd 208, 211 (5th Circuit, 2002), also <u>Diaz v. Shephard</u> 85 F. 3rd 1502, 1505 (11th Circuit 1996). <u>Brown v. Francis</u> 75 F. 3rd 860, 864 and 865 (3rd Circuit 1996) and Duncan v. Stuetzle 76 F. 3rd 1480, 1485 (9th Circuit 1996).

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Case 1:07-cv-10675-LBS

Document 3

Filed 12/19/2007

In response to the grounds asserted by defendant, plaintiff herein claims that the defendant has served their Notice of Removal untimely and there is not complete diversity. Finally, if removal does not occur, the plaintiff will be prejudiced in that the court of original jurisdiction is better suited to handle these types of negligence cases and the location of the State Court is closer to the material witnesses and parties.

This action should immediately be remanded to the State Court from whence the action was removed. The defendant did not timely file and serve their removal papers and there has been no waiver or stipulation to extend this time period for Removal and no valid reason for the delay in filing the notice proffered by defense attorney. Additionally as set forth above there is incomplete diversity herein in that the defendant derives substantial revenue from this state.

WHEREFORE an Order remanding this action to the Bronx Supreme State Court is herein respectfully requested.

Affirmed: Rockville Centre, New York December 12, 2007

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF BRONX _____X Index No. 301 Date filed: SHEILA GREENBERG and BUDDIE GREENBERG, Plaintiffs designate BRONX County as the place of trial Plaintiffs, The basis of the venue is -against-Plaintiffs' residence SUMMONS HOME DEPOT U.S.A., INC., Plaintiffs reside at 3135 Johnson Avenue Defendant Bronx, New York 10463 County of Bronx

To the above-named Defendants:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a notice of appearance, on the plaintiffs' attorneys within 20 days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after the service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Dated: Rockville Centre, New York September 17, 2007

Yours, etc.

KEITH S. DAVIDSON, ESO. DAVIDSON & COHEN, P.C.

Attorneys for Plaintiffs 265 Sunrise Highway

Rockville Centre, New York 11570

(516) 763-6700

Defendant's address:

HOME DEPOT U.S.A., INC. c/o CORPORATION SERVICE COMPANY **80 STATE STREET** ALBANY, NEW YORK 12207-2543 FOURTH: That at all times hereinafter mentioned, the defendant, HOME DEPOT U.S.A., INC., owned premises located at 68 Thompson Square, Monticello, County of Sullivan, State of New York.

<u>FIFTH</u>: That at all times hereinafter mentioned, the defendant, HOME DEPOT U.S.A., INC., owned the Home Depot store located at 68 Thompson Square, Monticello, County of Sullivan, State of New York.

<u>SIXTH</u>: That at all times hereinafter mentioned, the defendant, HOME DEPOT U.S.A., INC., operated the Home Depot store located at 68 Thompson Square, Monticello, County of Sullivan, State of New York.

<u>SEVENTH</u>: That at all times hereinafter mentioned, the defendant, HOME DEPOT U.S.A., INC., supervised the Home Depot store located at 68 Thompson Square, Monticello, County of Sullivan, State of New York.

EIGHTH: That at all times hereinafter mentioned, the defendant, HOME DEPOT U.S.A., INC., controlled the Home Depot store located at 68 Thompson Square, Monticello, County of Sullivan, State of New York.

NINTH: That at all times hereinafter mentioned, the defendant, HOME DEPOT U.S.A., INC., maintained the Home Depot store located at 68 Thompson Square, Monticello, County of Sullivan, State of New York.

TENTH: That it was the duty of the defendant to maintain the aforesaid premises in a safe condition for persons visiting same.

ELEVENTH: That on the 3rd day of August, 2006, while the plaintiff, SHEILA GREENBERG, was lawfully a patron at the aforementioned store, she was caused to be injured due to the negligence of the defendant.

TWELFTH: That the negligence of the defendants consisted, amongst other things, in failing to keep the aforesaid premises in a reasonably safe condition; in failing to perform proper inspections; in failing to perform proper clean-up operations; in causing and/or permitting hazardous, slippery and dangerous condition to exist at the premises aforementioned; in failing to post signs or warnings at the location aforesaid; and in otherwise being negligent in the premises.

THIRTEENTH: That the defendant actually created the condition complained of and had actual and constructive notice of the aforesaid condition prior to the occurrence herein.

FOURTEENTH: That said incident and injuries to the plaintiff were caused solely and wholly by reason of the negligence of the defendant and without any negligence on the part of the plaintiff contributing thereto.

FIFTEENTH: That this action falls within one or more of the exceptions set forth in CPLR §1602.

SIXTEENTH: That as result of the foregoing, the plaintiff was injured, both physically and mentally, in an amount which exceeds the jurisdictional limits of all lower Courts that would otherwise have jurisdiction.

3rd day of August, 2006 plus the costs and disbursements of this action.

Dated: Rockville Centre, New York September 17, 2007

Yours, etc.

KEITH S. DAVIDSON, ESQ.

DAVIDSON & COHEN, P.C. Attorneys for Plaintiff

265 Sunrise Highway

Rockville Centre, New York 11570

(516) 763-6700

AS AND FOR A SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION IN FAVOR OF PLAINTIFF, BUDDIE GREENBERG:

SEVENTEENTH: That this plaintiff repeats, reiterates, realleges and reaffirms each and every allegation contained in this complaint in paragraphs numbered "FIRST" through and including "SIXTEENTH" with the same force and effect as though fully set forth at length herein.

EIGHTEENTH: That heretofore and all the times hereinafter mentioned, this plaintiff was and still is the husband of the plaintiff, SHEILA GREENBERG, and resides with said plaintiff in a common household, and as such is entitled to the services, comfort and society of his said wife, SHEILA GREENBERG.

NINETEENTH: That by reason of the foregoing, and the wrongful, unlawful and negligent acts and omissions on the part of the defendant as aforesaid and due to the injuries sustained by the aforesaid plaintiff, SHEILA GREENBERG, this plaintiff was and will be deprived of the services, comfort and society of his said wife, the plaintiff, SHEILA GREENBERG, all to this plaintiff's damage in an amount which exceeds the jurisdictional limits of all lower Courts that would otherwise have jurisdiction.

WHEREFORE, the plaintiff, SHEILA GREENBERG, demands judgment against the defendant on her cause of action in a sum which exceeds the jurisdictional limits of all lower Courts, that would otherwise have jurisdiction and the plaintiff, BUDDIE GREENBERG, demands judgment against the defendant on his cause of action in a sum which exceeds the jurisdictional limits of all lower Courts, that would otherwise have jurisdiction, TOGETHER with interest thereon from the

Case 1:07-cv=10675-LBS Document-3 Filed 12/19/2007 Page 12 of 12

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK	V
SHEILA GREENBERG and BUDDIE GREENBE	
Plaintiffs, -against- HOME DEPOT U.S.A., INC.	MOTION REMANDING THE ACTION TO STATE COURT Index No. 10675-07
Defendant.	
The Plaintiffs, SHEILA GREENBERG and DAVIDSON & COHEN, P.C. hereby moves the entitled action to the Supreme Bronx State Court from what notice of removal was untimely, so that all formal trial may be had in this Court of original jurisdiction.	hence the action was removed, on the grounds further proceedings of the matter including the
Dated: Rockville Centre, New York December 12, 2007	Yours, etc. Janet L.H. Smitelli, Esq. DAVIDSON & COHEN, P.C. Attorneys for Plaintiff 265 Sunrise Highway Rockville Centre, New York 11570

D'Amato & Lynch, LLP Attorneys for Defendant 70 Pine Street New York, New York 10270-0110

TO:

(516) 763-6700

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
X
SHEILA GREENBERG and BUDDIE GREENBERG,

Plaintiffs,

AFFIRMATION

-against-

Index No. 10675-07

HOME DEPOT U.S.A., INC.

Defendant.

-----X

JANET L. HELLER SMITELLI, an attorney duly admitted to practice law before the Courts of the State of New York and before the Southern District of New York, hereby affirms the following under penalties of perjury:

I am associated with the law firm of Davidson & Cohen, P.C., attorneys for the plaintiff in the above entitled action and, as such, am familiar with this matter as evidenced by the file maintained by our office. This action arises out of a slip and fall accident at defendant's store which occurred on August 3, 2006. As a result, a Summons and Complaint dated Sept. 17, 2007, was served upon the defendant on Oct. 2, 2007, by service upon the Secretary of State. Annexed hereto as Exhibit "A" and "B" respectively, is a copy of the Summons & Complaint and affidavit of service. The index number was purchased in this matter on Sept. 24, 2007.

Defendant attorneys requested an extension of time within which to answer on Oct. 12, 2007 and issue was joined by service of an Answer by the defendant on Nov. 12, 2007. See copy of defendant's extension letter, answer and discovery demands annexed hereto as Exhibit "C",

"D" and "E" respectively.

Over two weeks thereafter, defendant attorney filed and served a Notice of Removal dated November 29, 2007. See copy of said Removal papers annexed hereto as Exhibit "F". This Notice of Removal was clearly untimely and beyond the thirty day limitation period as outlined in 28 U.S.C.A. Section 1446.

In the case of <u>Bertrand v. Vingan</u> 899 F.Supp. 1198 (S.D.N.Y. 1995), a defendant seeking removal must strictly comply with all statutory requirements, and where there is a doubt as to whether requirements have been satisfied, the case should be remanded. See also generally Citibank N.A. v. McGuirl 888 F.Supp 39 (S.D.N.Y. 1995).

Additionally, the party seeking to sustain removal not the party seeking remand bears the burden of demonstrating that the removal was proper see <u>Wilds v. United Parcel Service</u>

<u>Incorporated</u> 262 F.Supp.2d 163 (S.D.N.Y. 2003) and <u>Cassara v. Ralston</u> 832 F.Supp 752 (S.D.N.Y. 1993).

Defendants have also failed to prove a complete diversity in this matter in that the defendant Home Depot derives substantial revenue from New York State. Defendant, Home Depot is the world's largest home improvement retailer operating more than 1500 stores across North America. According to their official website, their revenue in 2006 was \$90.837 billion. It is axiomatic therefore that this huge corporation has many connections with New York State and in fact has been a defendant in many New York actions according to "Elaw" and "Lexis" web sites.

The Courts generally strictly construe the removal statutes in favor of remand and against removal. See generally, <u>Bosky v. Kroger Tex L.P.</u> 288 F. 3rd 208, 211 (5th Circuit, 2002), also <u>Diaz v. Shephard</u> 85 F. 3rd 1502, 1505 (11th Circuit 1996). <u>Brown v. Francis</u> 75 F. 3rd 860, 864

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and 865 (3rd Circuit 1996) and Duncan v. Stuetzle 76 F. 3rd 1480, 1485 (9th Circuit 1996).

In response to the grounds asserted by defendant, plaintiff herein claims that the

defendant has served their Notice of Removal untimely and there is not complete diversity.

Finally, if removal does not occur, the plaintiff will be prejudiced in that the court of original

jurisdiction is better suited to handle these types of negligence cases and the location of the State

Court is closer to the material witnesses and parties.

This action should immediately be remanded to the State Court from whence the action

was removed. The defendant did not timely file and serve their removal papers and there has

been no waiver or stipulation to extend this time period for Removal and no valid reason for the

delay in filing the notice proffered by defense attorney. Additionally as set forth above there is

incomplete diversity herein in that the defendant derives substantial revenue from this state.

WHEREFORE an Order remanding this action to the Bronx Supreme State Court is

herein respectfully requested.

Affirmed: Rockville Centre, New York

December 12, 2007

JANET L. HELLER SMITELLI

COUNTY OF BRONX	IE OF NEW YORK	
	X	Index No.
SHEILA GREENBERG and BUDD	DIE GREENBERG,	Date filed: Plaintiffs designate
	Plaintiffs,	BRONX County as the place of trial
-against-		The basis of the venue is Plaintiffs' residence
HOME DEPOT U.S.A., INC.,		SUMMONS Plaintiffs reside at
	Defendant	3135 Johnson Avenue Bronx, New York 10463
	X	County of Bronx

To the above-named Defendants:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a notice of appearance, on the plaintiffs' attorneys within 20 days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after the service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Dated: Rockville Centre, New York September 17, 2007

Yours, etc.

KEITH S. DAVIDSON, ESQ. DAVIDSON & COHEN, P.C. Attorneys for Plaintiffs 265 Sunrise Highway Rockville Centre, New York 11570 (516) 763-6700

Defendant's address:

HOME DEPOT U.S.A., INC. c/o CORPORATION SERVICE COMPANY 80 STATE STREET ALBANY, NEW YORK 12207-2543

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Document 3-5 Filed 12/19/2007

DAVIDSON & COHEN, P.C.

265 SUNRISE HIGHWAY ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NEW YORK 11570

DRUCE E. COHEN
KEITH S. DAVIDSON
JANET L.H. SMITELLI

(516) 763-6700 (516) 763-0567 FACSIMILE

TELECOPY FOR IMMED TOTAL PAGES: 99 (Including cover sheet)	DOWN SOUND
DATE:	
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RE:	- Pull
SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:	

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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Filed 12/19/2007

Page 2 of 12

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK	r
SHEILA GREENBERG and BUDDIE GREENBERG,	
Plaintiffs, -against- HOME DEPOT U.S.A., INC.	MOTION REMANDING THE ACTION TO STATE COURT Index No. 10675-07
Defendant.	

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Dated: Rockville Centre, New York December 12, 2007

TO:

Yours, etc.

Janet L.H. Smitelli, Esq. DAVIDSON & COHEN, P.C.

Attorneys for Plaintiff

265 Sunrise Highway

Rockville Centre, New York 11570

护1335

(516) 763-6700

D'Amato & Lynch, LLP Attorneys for Defendant 70 Pine Street New York, New York 10270-0110 DEC-18-2007 17:57 P.03

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW		
SHEILA GREENBERG and BUDI		
	Plaintiffs,	<u>AFFIRMATION</u>
-against-		Index No. 10675-07
HOME DEPOT U.S.A., INC.		Index 110. 10075 07
	Defendant.	
		· ·

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

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P.04

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Defendants have also failed to prove a complete diversity in this matter in that the defendant Home Depot derives substantial revenue from New York State. Defendant, Home Depot is the world's largest home improvement retailer operating more than 1500 stores across North America. According to their official website, their revenue in 2006 was \$90.837 billion. It is axiomatic therefore that this huge corporation has many connections with New York State and in fact has been a defendant in many New York actions according to "Elaw" and "Lexis" web sites.

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In response to the grounds asserted by defendant, plaintiff herein claims that the defendant has served their Notice of Removal untimely and there is not complete diversity. Finally, if removal does not occur, the plaintiff will be prejudiced in that the court of original jurisdiction is better suited to handle these types of negligence cases and the location of the State Court is closer to the material witnesses and parties.

This action should immediately be remanded to the State Court from whence the action was removed. The defendant did not timely file and serve their removal papers and there has been no waiver or stipulation to extend this time period for Removal and no valid reason for the delay in filing the notice proffered by defense attorney. Additionally as set forth above there is incomplete diversity herein in that the defendant derives substantial revenue from this state.

WHEREFORE an Order remanding this action to the Bronx Supreme State Court is herein respectfully requested.

Affirmed: Rockville Centre, New York December 12, 2007

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COUNTY OF BRONX	Index No. 301172-207
SHEILA GREENBERG and BUDDIE GREENBERG,	Date filed:
Plaintiffs,	BRONX County as the place of trial
-against-	The basis of the venue is
	Plaintiffs' residence
HOME DEPOT U.S.A., INC.,	SUMMONS
	Plaintiffs reside at
Defendant	3135 Johnson Avenue
	Bronx, New York 10463
	County of Bronx

To the above-named Defendants:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a notice of appearance, on the plaintiffs' attorneys within 20 days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after the service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Dated: Rockville Centre, New York September 17, 2007

Yours, etc.

KEITH S. DAVIDSON, ESQ.

DAVIDSON & COHEN, P.C.

Attorneys for Plaintiffs 265 Sunrise Highway

Rockville Centre, New York 11570

(516) 763-6700

Case 1:07-cv-10675-LBS Document 3-5 Filed 12/19/2007 Page 7 of 12

Defendant's address:

HOME DEPOT U.S.A., INC. c/o CORPORATION SERVICE COMPANY 80 STATE STREET ALBANY, NEW YORK 12207-2543

FOURTH: That at all times hereinafter mentioned, the defendant, HOME DEPOT U.S.A., INC., owned premises located at 68 Thompson Square, Monticello, County of Sullivan, State of New York.

FIFTH: That at all times hereinafter mentioned, the defendant, HOME DEPOT U.S.A., INC., owned the Home Depot store located at 68 Thompson Square, Monticello, County of Sullivan, State of New York.

SIXTH: That at all times hereinafter mentioned, the defendant, HOME DEPOT U.S.A., INC., operated the Home Depot store located at 68 Thompson Square, Monticello, County of Sullivan, State of New York.

SEVENTH: That at all times hereinafter mentioned, the defendant, HOME DEPOT U.S.A., INC., supervised the Home Depot store located at 68 Thompson Square, Monticello, County of Sullivan, State of New York.

EIGHTH: That at all times hereinafter mentioned, the defendant, HOME DEPOT U.S.A., INC., controlled the Home Depot store located at 68 Thompson Square, Monticello, County of Sullivan, State of New York.

NINTH: That at all times hereinafter mentioned, the defendant, HOME DEPOT U.S.A., INC., maintained the Home Depot store located at 68 Thompson Square, Monticello, County of Sullivan, State of New York.

TENTH: That it was the duty of the defendant to maintain the aforesaid premises in a safe condition for persons visiting same.

ELEVENTH: That on the 3rd day of August, 2006, while the plaintiff, SHEILA GREENBERG, was lawfully a patron at the aforementioned store, she was caused to be injured due to the negligence of the defendant.

TWELFTH: That the negligence of the defendants consisted, amongst other things, in failing to keep the aforesaid premises in a reasonably safe condition; in failing to perform proper inspections; in failing to perform proper clean-up operations; in causing and/or permitting hazardous, slippery and dangerous condition to exist at the premises aforementioned; in failing to post signs or warnings at the location aforesaid; and in otherwise being negligent in the premises.

THIRTEENTH: That the defendant actually created the condition complained of and had actual and constructive notice of the aforesaid condition prior to the occurrence herein.

FOURTEENTH: That said incident and injuries to the plaintiff were caused solely and wholly by reason of the negligence of the defendant and without any negligence on the part of the plaintiff contributing thereto.

FIFTEENTH: That this action falls within one or more of the exceptions set forth in CPLR §1602.

SIXTEENTH: That as result of the foregoing, the plaintiff was injured, both physically and mentally, in an amount which exceeds the jurisdictional limits of all lower Courts that would otherwise have jurisdiction.

3rd day of August, 2006 plus the costs and disbursements of this action.

Dated: Rockville Centre, New York September 17, 2007

Yours, etc.

KEITH S. DAVIDSON, ESQ. DAVIDSON & COHEN, P.C.

Attorneys for Plaintiff 265 Sunrise Highway

Rockville Centre, New York 11570

(516) 763-6700

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AS AND FOR A SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION IN FAVOR OF PLAINTIFF, BUDDIE GREENBERG:

Filed 12/19/2007

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SEVENTEENTH: That this plaintiff repeats, reiterates, realleges and reaffirms each and every allegation contained in this complaint in paragraphs numbered "FIRST" through and including "SIXTEENTH" with the same force and effect as though fully set forth at length herein.

EIGHTEENTH: That heretofore and all the times hereinafter mentioned, this plaintiff was and still is the husband of the plaintiff, SHEILA GREENBERG, and resides with said plaintiff in a common household, and as such is entitled to the services, comfort and society of his said wife, SHEILA GREENBERG.

NINETEENTH: That by reason of the foregoing, and the wrongful, unlawful and negligent acts and omissions on the part of the defendant as aforesaid and due to the injuries sustained by the aforesaid plaintiff, SHEILA GREENBERG, this plaintiff was and will be deprived of the services, comfort and society of his said wife, the plaintiff, SHEILA GREENBERG, all to this plaintiff's damage in an amount which exceeds the jurisdictional limits of all lower Courts that would otherwise have jurisdiction.

WHEREFORE, the plaintiff, SHEILA GREENBERG, demands judgment against the defendant on her cause of action in a sum which exceeds the jurisdictional limits of all lower Courts, that would otherwise have jurisdiction and the plaintiff, BUDDIE GREENBERG, demands judgment against the defendant on his cause of action in a sum which exceeds the jurisdictional limits of all lower Courts, that would otherwise have jurisdiction, TOGETHER with interest thereon from the

Case 1:07-cv-10675-LBS Document 3-5 Filed 12/19/2007 Page 12 of 12 DAVIDSON & COHEN, P.C.

265 SUNRISE HIGHWAY ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NEW YORK 11570

BRUGE E. GOMEN KEITH S. DAVIDSON JANET L.H. SMITELLI (516) 763-6700 (518) 763-0567 FACSIMILE

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

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THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS FACSIMILE MESSAGE IS ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGED AND/OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION INTENDED ONLY FOR THE USE OF THE INDIVIDUAL OR ENTITY NAMED ABOVE. IF THE READER OF THIS MESSAGE IS NOT THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, OR THE EMPLOYEE OR AGENT RESPONSIBLE TO DELIVER IT TO THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT ANY DISSEMINATION, DISTRIBUTION OR COPYING OF THIS COMMUNICATION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS COMMUNICATION IN ERROR, PLEASE IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY US BY TELEPHONE, AND RETURN THE ORIGINAL MESSAGE TO US AT THE ADDRESS ABOVE VIA THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE. THANK YOU.

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SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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Index No. 10675-07

HOME DEPOT U.S.A., INC.

Defendant.

The Plaintiffs, SHEILA GREENBERG and BUDDIE GREENBERG by their attorneys,

DAVIDSON & COHEN, P.C. hereby moves this Court for an Order remanding the above entitled

action to the Supreme Bronx State Court from whence the action was removed, on the grounds that

notice of removal was untimely, so that all further proceedings of the matter including the trial may

be had in this Court of original jurisdiction.

X-----

Dated: Rockville Centre, New York

December 12, 2007

SEE1#

net L.H. Smitelli, Esq.

DAVIDSON & COHEN, P.C.

Attorneys for Plaintiff 265 Sunrise Highway

Rockville Centre, New York 11570

(\$16) 763-6700

TO: D'Amato & Lynch, LLP Attorneys for Defendant 70 Pine Street

New York, New York 10270-0110

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SHEILA GREENBERG and BUDDIE GREENBERG, UNITED STATES DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Plaintiffs, TAMGTAAA

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X----

Index No. 10675-07

HOME DEPOT U.S.A., INC.

Defendant.

 ${\tt IWNETL}$. HELLER SMITELLI, an attorney duly admitted to practice law before the Courts

following under penalties of perjury:

of the State of New York and before the Southern District of New York, hereby affirms the

I am associated with the law firm of Davidson & Cohen, P.C., attorneys for the plaintiff in the above entitled action and, as such, am familiar with this matter as evidenced by the file maintained by our office. This action arises out of a slip and fall accident at defendant's store which occurred on August 3, 2006. As a result, a Summons and Complaint dated Sept. 17, 2007, was served upon the defendant on Oct. 2, 2007, by service upon the Secretary of State. Annexed hereto served upon the defendant on Oct. 2, 2007, by service upon the Summons & Complaint and affidavit of as Exhibit "A" and "B" respectively, is a copy of the Summons & Complaint and affidavit of

service. The index number was purchased in this matter on Sept. 24, 2007.

Defendant attorneys requested an extension of time within which to answer on Oct. 12, 2007 and issue was joined by service of an Answer by the defendant on Nov. 12, 2007. See copy of

defendant's extension letter, answer and discovery demands annexed hereto as Exhibit "C", "D" and

" \mathbf{E}_n respectively.

U.S.C.A. Section 1446.

of Removal was clearly untimely and beyond the thirty day limitation period as outlined in 28 November 29, 2007. See copy of said Removal papers annexed hereto as Exhibit "F". This Notice Over two weeks thereafter, defendant attorney filed and served a Notice of Removal dated

whether requirements have been satisfied, the case should be remanded. See also generally Citibank removal must strictly comply with all statutory requirements, and where there is a doubt as to In the case of Bertrand v. Vingan 899 F. Supp. 1198 (S.D.N.Y. 1995), a defendant seeking

Incorporated 262 F.Supp.2d 163 (S.D.N.Y. 2003) and Cassara v. Ralston 832 F.Supp 752 burden of demonstrating that the removal was proper see Wilds v. United Parcel Service Additionally, the party seeking to sustain removal not the party seeking remand bears the A.A. v. McGuirl 888 F.Supp 39 (S.D. N.Y. 1995).

a defendant in many New York actions according to "Elaw" and "Lexis" web sites. therefore that this huge corporation has many connections with New York State and in fact has been According to their official website, their revenue in 2006 was \$90.837 billion. It is axiomatic world's largest home improvement rotailer operating more than 1500 stores across North America. Home Depot derives substantial revenue from New York State. Defendant, Home Depot is the Defendants have also failed to prove a complete diversity in this matter in that the defendant (S.D.N.Y. 1993).

(3rd Circuit 1996) and Duncan v. Stuetzle 76 F. 3rd 1480, 1485 (9th Circuit 1996). v. Shephard 85 F. 3rd 1502, 1505 (11th Circuit 1996). Brown v. Francis 75 F. 3rd 860, 864 and 865 removal. See generally, Bosky v. Kroger Tex L.P. 288 F. 3rd 208, 211 (5th Circuit, 2002), also Diaz The Courts generally strictly construe the removal statutes in favor of remand and against

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In response to the grounds asserted by defendant, plaintiff herein claims that the defendant has served their Notice of Removal untimely and there is not complete diversity. Finally, if removal does not occur, the plaintiff will be prejudiced in that the court of original jurisdiction is better suited to handle these types of negligence cases and the location of the State Court is closer to the material

This setion should immediately be remanded to the State Court from whence the action was removed. The defendant did not timely file and serve their removal papers and there has been no waiver or stipulation to extend this time period for Removal and no valid reason for the delay in filing the notice proffered by defense attorney. Additionally as set forth above there is incomplete

diversity herein in that the defendant derives substantial revenue from this state. WHEREFORE an Order remanding this action to the Bronx Supreme State Court is herein

respectfully requested.

witnesses and parties.

P.05

Affirmed: Rockville Centre, New York December 12, 2007

ANET L. HELLER SMITELLI #1.335

DEC-18-2007 19:14

Case 1:07-cv-10675-LBS Document 3-6 Filed 12/19/2007 Page 5 of 15

-taninga-Plaintiffs, place of trial BRONX County as the Plaintiffs designate SHEILA GREENBERG and BUDDIE GREENBERG, Date filed: IOZ.oV rabril X-----COUNTY OF BRONX SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

The basis of the venue is

SNOWWINS Plaintiffs' residence

3135 Johnson Avenue Plaintiffs reside at

Bronx, New York 10463

Defendant

County of Bronx

To the above-named Defendants:

HOME DEPOT U.S.A., INC.,

answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint. personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in case of your failure to appear or of the day of service (or within 30 days after the service is complete if this summons is not of appearance, on the plaintiffs' attorneys within 20 days after the service of this summons, exclusive serve a copy of your answer, or, if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a notice AON WEE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action and to

September 17, 2007 Dated: Rockville Centre, New York

Xonta' etc.

Document 3-6

0076-587 (818) Rockville Centre, New York 11570 265 Sunrise Highway Attorneys for Plaintiffs DAVIDSON & COHEN, P.C. KEILH 2' DYAIDSON' ESÓ'

DEC-18-2007 19:14 " Case 1:07-cv-10675-LBS

Filed 12/19/2007

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DEC-18-2007 19:15 P.07

ALBANY, NEW YORK 12207-2543 c/o CORPORATION SERVICE COMPANY HOME DEPOT U.S.A., INC.

Defendant's address:

SHEILA GREENBERG and BUDDIE GREENBERG, COUNTY OF BRONX SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Plaintiffs,

VERIFIED COMPLAINT

Index No.

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HOME DEPOT U.S.A., INC.

Defendant.

Plaintiffs, SHEILA GREENBERG and BUDDIE GREENBERG, by their attorneys,

DAVIDSON & COHEN, P.C., complaining of the defendant herein, respectfully show to this Court

and allege:

AS AND FOR A FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION IN FAVOR OF

PLAINTIFF, SHEILA GREENBERG:

FIRST: That at all times hereinafter mentioned, the plaintiff was an adult resident of the

County of Bronx, State of New York.

ZECOND: That at all times hereinafter mentioned, the defendant, HOME DEPOT U.S.A.,

INC., was a foreign business corporation duly authorized to transact business in the State of New

XOLK.

THIRD: That at all times hereinafter mentioned, the defendant, HOME DEPOT U.S.A.,

I

07 SEP 24 Pin 3: 05 INC., was a foreign suspaces contained doing business in the State of New York.

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Filed 12/19/2007

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Case 1:07-cv-10675-LBS

Document 3-6

FOURTH: That at all times hereinafter mentioned, the defendant, HOME DEPOT U.S.A.,

FIFTH: That at all times hereinafter mentioned, the defendant, HOME DEPOT U.S.A.,

York.

IVC., owned premises located at 68 Thompson Square, Monticello, County of Sullivan, State of New

INC., owned the Home Depot atore located at 68 Thompson Square, Monticello, County of Sullivan,

SIXTH: That at all times hereinafter mentioned, the defendant, HOME DEPOT U.S.A., State of New York.

INC., operated the Home Depot store located at 68 Thompson Square, Monticello, County of

Sullivan, State of New York.

INC., supervised the Home Depot store located at 68 Thompson Square, Monticello, County of

Sullivan, State of New York.

INC., controlled the Home Depot store located at 68 Thompson Square, Monticello, County of

Sullivan, State of New York.

MINTH: That at all times hereinafter mentioned, the defendant, HOME DEPOT 0.S.A.,

EICHTH: That at all times hereinafter mentioned, the defendant, HOME DEPOT U.S.A.,

SEVENTH: That at all times hereinafter mentioned, the defendant, HOME DEPOT U.S.A.,

INC., maintained the Home Depot store located at 68 Thompson Square, Monticello, County of

Sullivan, State of New York.

TENTH: That it was the duty of the defendant to maintain the aforesaid premises in a safe

condition for persons visiting same.

7

GREENBERG, was lawfully a patron at the aforementioned store, she was caused to be injured due That on the 3rd day of August, 2006, while the plaintiff, SHEILA ELEVENTH:

slippery and dangerous condition to exist at the premises aforementioned; in failing to post signs or inspections; in failing to perform proper clean-up operations; in causing and/or permitting hazardous, failing to keep the aforesaid premises in a reasonably safe condition; in failing to perform proper TWELFTH: That the negligence of the defendants consisted, amongst other things, in

THIRTEENTH: That the defendant actually created the condition complained of and had warnings at the location aforesaid; and in otherwise being negligent in the premises.

wholly by reason of the negligence of the defendant and without any negligence on the part of the FOURTEENTH: That said incident and injuries to the plaintiff were caused solely and actual and constructive notice of the aforesaid condition prior to the occurrence herein.

FIFTEENTH: That this action falls within one or more of the exceptions set forth in CPLR orstanti gnitudintos Tritnis q

mentally, in an amount which exceeds the jurisdictional limits of all lower Courts that would SIXTEENTH: That as result of the foregoing, the plaintiff was injured, both physically and \$1602.

otherwise have jurisdiction.

to the negligence of the defendant.

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PLAINTIFF, BUDDIE GREENBERG:

SEVENTEENTH: That this plaintiff repeats, reiterates, realleges and reaffirms each and every allegation contained in this complaint in paragraphs numbered "FIRST" through and including

"SIXTEENTH" with the same force and effect as though fully set forth at length herein.

EIGHTEENTH: That heretofore and all the times hereinafter mentioned, this plaintiff was and still is the husband of the plaintiff, SHEILA GREENBERG, and resides with said plaintiff in a common household, and as such is entitled to the services, comfort and society of his said wife,

<u>MINETERITH:</u> That by reason of the foregoing, and the wrongful, unlawful and negligent acts and omissions on the part of the defendant as aforesaid and due to the injuries sustained by the aforesaid plaintiff, SHEILA GREENBERG, this plaintiff was and will be deprived of the services, comfort and society of his said wife, the plaintiff, SHEILA GREENBERG, all to this plaintiff's damage in an amount which exceeds the jurisdictional limits of all lower Courts that would

otherwise have jurisdiction.

WHEREFORE, the plaintiff, SHEILA GREENBERG, demands judgment against the defendant on her cause of action in a sum which exceeds the jurisdictional limits of all lower Courts, that would otherwise have jurisdiction and the plaintiff, BUDDIE GREENBERG, demands judgment against the defendant on his cause of action in a sum which exceeds the jurisdictional limits of all lower Courts, that would otherwise have jurisdiction, TOGETHER with interest thereon from the

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SHEILA GREENBERG.

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Yours, etc.

September 17, 2007 Dated: Rockville Centre, New York

3rd day of August, 2006 plus the costs and disbursements of this action.

0049-894 (915) Rockville Centre, New York 11570 265 Sunrise Highway Attorneys for Plaintiff **DAVIDSON & COHEN, P.C.** KEILH Z. DAVIDSON, ESQ.

The undersigned, an attorney duly admitted to practice law in the Courts of the State of New York, hereby affirms the following pursuant to CPLR 2106:

Your affirmant is a member of the law firm of DAVIDSON & COHEN, P.C., the attorneys of record for the plaintiff in the within action; your affirmant has read the foregoing SUMMONS own knowledge, except as to the matters therein stated to be alleged on information and belief, and that as to those matters your affirmant believes it to be true. This verification is made by your affirmant and not by plaintiff in that plaintiff does not reside within the county wherein the undersigned affirmant maintains his office.

The grounds of your affirmant's belief as to all matters not stated upon your affirmant's knowledge are as follows: Information and papers contained in affirmant's file and conversations with plaintiff.

Dated: Rockville Centre, New York September 17, 2007

KEILH 2. DAVIDSON

Index # 301172-07

Purchased/Filed: September 24, 2007

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE ON A CORPORATION BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE

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Filed 12/19/2007

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Commission Expires Jan 8, 2011

DEC-18-2007 19:17 Page 14 of 15 BY DONNA CHRISTIE Secretary of State

, YNAEJA NX ISSON-SE43 THERE STATE 08 C\O COBBORATION SERVICE COMPANY Service of Process Address:

GREENBERG, SHEILA Plaintiff/Petitioner:

Party Served: HOME DEPOT U.S.A., INC.

MAL NOITAROTROD Service was directed to be made pursuant to: SECTION 306 OF THE BUSINESS

Service Company: 02 ALEXANDER POOLE & CO., INC. - 02 Date of Service:

TO/05/5001 Receipt #: 200710030216 Fee Paid: \$40 - CHECK Cash #: 200710030159

> Receipt for Service State of New York - Department of State